

Birmingham



and



Sacramento

December 2024

Bob and Molly Hillery

Birmingham and Sacramento, December 2024

Wednesday December 11

We stayed at the airport Marriott after having had dinner with Hayley in Covington on Tuesday evening. We woke up on Wednesday morning to a covering of snow—and hoped that this was the last we would see on this trip. We had breakfast in the hotel and caught the 8:45 shuttle to the airport where it was very quiet. We had time in the lounge before our 11am flight to Atlanta. The layover there was about 2 hours, which gave us plenty of time to change terminals and spend a little time in the lounge. Then we boarded our flight to Birmingham – a bouncy but short (30 minutes) ride.

We took an Uber to our hotel in Homewood, I went for a short walk on a chilly but bright afternoon, and then we prepared to meet our granddaughter and family for dinner. We arrived at the restaurant a little before anyone else and spent some time reviewing the most unusual menu and attempting to make our selections. Those were modified when we learned that the food is best when presented in family-style, so we pooled our desires once everyone had made some choices.

It turned out to be an interesting and very good meal with several dishes that were totally unfamiliar – but very good. The company was even better, and we spent a very enjoyable two hours with Celia, Ashlyn, Rachael, Julie and Kirk, during which we were able to give Celia and Ashlyn their anniversary, birthday (Celia) and Christmas gifts as well as a couple of souvenirs from our recent trips for the others. It was 10 pm when we arrived back at the hotel, kindly driven there by Julie and Kirk.



Thursday December 12

We got up at 8am and ordered an Uber to take us to breakfast with Celia and Ashlyn. We met at the Big Bad Breakfast café and had a great meal and another nice chat. They drove us back to the hotel afterwards.

I went for a short walk and we packed before taking an Uber to the airport for our flight to Atlanta and then on to Sacramento. Both flights were on time and we had a good meal on the longer leg – although there was significant turbulence as we approached Sacramento.

We picked up a rental car and drove the short distance to the SpringHill Suites in Natomas, where we checked in about 11pm (PST).

Friday December 13

I was awake early, so I went for a short walk (in the rain) before Molly and I went to iHop for breakfast. We then relaxed in the hotel until noon when we left for Roseville and a lunch date with Christopher and Cyndi. We had a 1 ½ hour meal together and a nice chat before checking in at the Fairfield. It was raining on and off and quite cool, so we stayed put until we met the family (and Sammy's boyfriend Logan) at the High School.



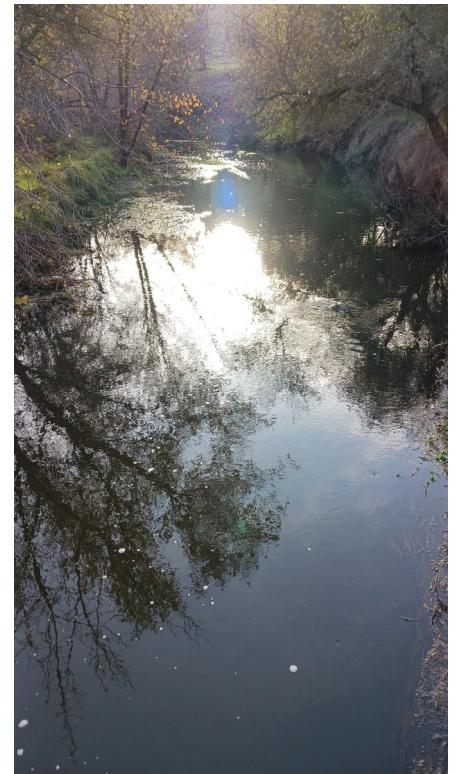
We went to the very nice auditorium where we enjoyed a two-hour concert by the various choirs and the concert band. They were all very accomplished musicians and put on a great performance. We finished the evening with dinner at a nearby Mel's Diner.

Saturday December 14

We woke up around 8am and went for coffee at the local Starbucks and then relaxed (raining and windy again) until meeting the family for lunch at Mod Pizza. After lunch, we took Sammy for her traditional birthday shopping with the money we had given her. We made stops at Coldstone Creamery (ice cream), Barnes and Noble (books) and Michaels (who knows what?) We returned her to Cyndi and Christopher and then relaxed until we met (adults only) for dinner at Cas del Lago. We had a very nice meal and a lovely long chat.

Sunday December 15

We went to Starbucks for coffee and later met Christopher for lunch at iHop near Galleria shopping mall (Sammy and Cyndi were at a skating party. I had managed a two-mile walk in the morning (after the dense fog had lifted) and did another similar one on a much brighter afternoon.



Around 6pm, Christopher, Cyndi and Sammy came to our hotel for our Christmas gift exchange. We spent a little over an hour celebrating "Christmas" before driving to Tomatina for a very nice Italian meal. We then said our goodbyes for this trip and returned to the hotel. Once again, we forgot to take pictures of our California family—but we have our memories of a very nice weekend.

Monday December 16

We were up soon after 8am, packed and checked out of the hotel. We had breakfast at IHop before driving to the airport in heavy rain. We were through check-in and Security very quickly and had about 1 ½ hours in the seating area before boarding our flight to Salt Lake City. It was quite foggy near the airport, and we wondered whether there may be delays. There were none and both flights were on time (and a little bumpy at times) so we were home by midnight after a very nice weekend in California and an equally pleasant visit to Birmingham.

